

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #1

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WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

With this newsletter you see what we hope will be the birth of an organization for those interested in tokens from the Carolinas. Over the next year you will receive four newsletters from the fledgling organization - to be known as CARTS, the Carolina Token Society. This name was chosen instead of Carolina TAMS for two reasons. First, there was at one point in time a functioning organization called Carolina TAMS, our name should avoid confusion with the former group. Second, there is a national group, to which many of us belong, known as TAMS. We do not want to infringe on this group's acronym.

Of course if you really *hate* the idea of receiving these newsletters you may let the editor know (contact information on page 2) and you will be removed from the mailing list. But the point is: **you will not be asked to pay anything for the first year's newsletters.** If you know of someone who would like to be added to our mailing list please have that person send a mailing address to the editor.

It is naturally our hope that before the end of 2004 you will want to keep CARTS going, and in fact you will want to become a member. You will be informed in a later issue what the yearly dues will be. (We don't know what they should be at this point; we're sort of making this up as we go along.) We envision, ultimately, an organization with an elected president, vice

president, secretary/treasurer, and three board members with an appointed editor. In addition to the quarterly newsletters we plan (at least) a yearly meeting - as is done by TAMS, NTCA, AVA, SETS, Florida Token Society, etc. - at which we can swap tokens, buy and sell, tell tales, and generally enjoy ourselves.

But, for the time being, we start with the newsletter. And the editor solicits your contributions in the form of articles, reports of new finds, and classified ads. Please keep classified ads under 50 words; longer ads will be edited. No paid ads will be accepted in the first year. And finally the editor reserves the right to refuse to publish any item thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby.

WHO'S BEHIND CARTS?

At present we have three people who are acting as de facto officers/directors of CARTS. Surely one or more of them is known to you. They are Don Bailey, Tony Chibbaro, and Bob King.

Don Bailey is a relative novice token collector, having begun collecting San Antonio tokens about 1992. Don still collects San Antonio tokens, as well as Texas tokens, Dr. Pepper tokens, and peanut tokens. But his primary interest now is North Carolina tokens. Don is a North Carolina native having grown up in the mill village at Cliffside, NC. He is a member of AVA, NTCA, SETS, TAMS, IKO-TAMS, the Florida Token Society, NCNA, and SCNA. Don is serving as editor, and he is also (until September of 2004) the editor of *Talkin' Tokens*, the journal of NTCA.

Tony Chibbaro is a long time collector, author of the catalog *South Carolina Tokens*, and past president of

SCNA. Tony is a member of TAMS, NTCA, IKO-TAMS, SETS, AVA, FTS, and NSCA. He is a lifelong native of South Carolina, born and raised in Greenville, and having lived in the Midlands for over 20 years. Tony collects all types of exonomia from South Carolina - trade tokens, encased cents, medals, wooden nickels, etc. He is especially interested in the history of the textile industry and eagerly collects tokens, coupon books, postcards, and other ephemera related to cotton mills and the industry in general.

Bob King is a long time collector who is presently working on a North Carolina token catalog. He began collecting tokens in 1984 after collecting billiard memorabilia for 10 years. Bob dropped all his other collecting interests in 1986 and began collecting NC tokens exclusively. He is a life long resident of Brevard.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism gratefully accepted. Let us know! **Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only!**

Researching a Pair of Billiard Tokens

Tony Chibbaro

Billiard table reverse tokens are often prized components of a token collector's holdings. Some collectors even specialize in acquiring such tokens, amassing dozens, or even hundreds, of different specimens over many years of searching. Struck as early as 1878, these special tokens feature advertising information for a billiard table manufacturer on the reverse, while the obverse usually carries the name of the issuing merchant and the value of the token. Companies such as the National Billiard Mfg. Co., the George Kuehl Billiard Supply Co., and Brunswick & Co. offered these tokens to the saloons, billiard parlors, and other merchants who purchased their pool tables and supplies. The tokens were cheap advertising for the manufacturers and made good economic sense for the issuing merchants, who used them in various ways in their businesses. Billiard table reverse tokens were made by over three dozen different billiard manufacturers, but this article will concern only two, the Brunswick & Balke Company, and its later incarnation, the Brunswick, Balke, Collender Company.



The "good for 25¢ in trade" token (see above) issued by L. Pearlstin with a Brunswick & Balke Company reverse has been published previously in the *Standard Catalog of United States Tokens, 1700-1900* by Russell Rulau and *Hank Thoele's Attribution Guide to Maker's Tokens*. In both references the token is attributed to Branchville, SC.

Until further research could be completed, this author had been reticent to accept such an attribution. But now that a new online search tool has become available, the attribution to Branchville has proven to be correct.

This new attribution tool is a digitized version of the 1880 United States Census that is available free of charge on the website www.ancestry.com. The site has information available from other censuses, as well as other sources, but charges a fee for access to those. As a large percentage of the billiard maker tokens issued in the 1880s are mavericks, the census information compiled in 1880 can be very useful in attributing such tokens.

Discussed below are the results of the research concerning the L. Pearlstin token and the 1880 census. There were no matches for the last name *Pearlstin*. This was not surprising, as I suspected that the name was misspelled on the token. A search on the last name *Pearlstine* revealed 9 matches, all from South Carolina. Lewis Pearlstine, his wife Rebecca, and his six children totaled 8 of the 9 matches. They were all shown as living in Branchville, SC. Lewis was listed as being 45 years old, and born in 1835 in Russia. His wife Rebecca was listed at 35 years old, also being born in Russia. Their six children ranged from ages 2 to 13 and were all born in South Carolina. The only other Pearlstine listed in the entire country was shown as residing in Charleston, SC. For the sake of completeness and accuracy, several searches were initiated using variant spellings. A *Pearlstein* search yielded 18 additional matches, of which only 5 were adult males, none having first names beginning with the letter “L”. The variants *Purlstine*, *Purlstein*, and *Perlstine* had no matches at all. The variant *Perlstein* had 19 matches, only two of which were adult males, neither having a first name beginning with “L”.

After reviewing the above information, along with that of other sources at my disposal, I felt pretty comfortable with the attribution to Branchville, as I now could readily see that the last name Pearlstin and its variants were not common surnames in the U.S. during the 1880s. The additional information gleaned from mercantile directories is outlined below. Note how the spelling of the last name changes, depending on what reference is cited. All listings appear under Branchville, SC.

- 1875 Bradstreet – L. Pearlstein, general store
- 1883 Bradstreet – L. Pearlstin, general store
- 1886 Gazetteer – L. Pearlstin, saloon
- 1886 Gazetteer – L. Pearlstine, railroad timber contractor
- 1889 Bradstreet – Rebecca Pearlstein (wife), general store and saloon
- 1890 Dun – Mrs. R. Pearlstine, general store
- 1893 Bradstreet – Rebecca Pearlstein, general store and saloon
- 1893 Bradstreet – J.T. Pearlstein (son), crossties and lumber
- 1895 Bradstreet – Rebecca Pearlstine, general store
- 1895 Bradstreet – J.T. Pearlstine, crossties and lumber
- 1899 Bradstreet – R. Pearlstine & Sons, general store and crossties
- 1902 Dun – R. Pearlstine & Sons, general store and millinery
- 1904 Dun – Pearlstine & Co., general store
- 1905 Dun – Mrs. R. Pearlstine, general store
- 1908 Bradstreet – R. Pearlstine, general store
- 1910 Bradstreet – R. Pearlstine, general store
- 1910 Bradstreet – Abe Pearlstine (son), undertaker

The information outlined above shows that besides operating a general store and selling railroad crossties, Lewis Pearlstine also ran a saloon in the late 1880s and early 1890s. It was forced to close down in 1893, as were all saloons across South Carolina, when the state changed its liquor laws and started the dispensary system. Lewis probably died sometime between 1886 and 1889, as his last listing appears in 1886. His wife and sons continued the family businesses for a number of years.



After having such good results with the 1880 census on the Pearlstin token, I decided to check a few more of my billiard maker tokens. A couple of tokens with common surnames yielded too many matches to be useful, but one token, issued by a merchant name Max Zarek, produced instant results. This particular token (pictured above) is “good for 1 cue” and features a Brunswick, Balke, Collender Company reverse. The www.ancestry.com search provided an immediate and unequivocal match from South Carolina. Max Zarek, age 46, born in 1834 in Prussia, was listed in Laurens, SC. He was the only Zarek listed in the entire United States. Variant spellings showed no matches at all in the 1880 census. Later searches through mercantile directories supplied the following information, all under the heading of Laurens, SC. Again note the preponderance of variant spellings in the other sources.

1883 Bradstreet – Max Zarcke, saloon
 1889 Bradstreet – Max Zarck, livery stables
 1890 Dun – Max Zareck, saloon
 1893 Bradstreet – Max Zarek, clothing and liquors

Four different directories and four different spellings for the last name. Such fluidity in spelling of surnames in the 1800s makes life interesting for the maverick token researcher.

SELMA LUMBER COMPANY Information - and Request for Same

Bob King



Selma Lumber Co. / Selma, N.C. // 5 – Rd, Br, 22mm

The Selma Lumber Company is not listed in Terry N. Trantow's excellent *Catalogue of Lumber Company Store Tokens*. It is listed in the January 1917 Bradstreet as a Manufacturer. It does not appear in the 1907 Dun or 1918 Dun. The author owns 5, 10, 25 and 50 pieces.

Were other denominations used? Does anyone have any other information on this business?

NEW FIND

Don Bailey

I suppose it goes without saying that it is very hard to decide what is, and what is not, a North Carolina “New Find” since we have no catalog. But I believe the following to be a new find. (In addition to the token shown, a \$1.00 token of the same type and merchant is known.)



Thomas Toms / 50 / Caroleen / N.C. // In Trade / 50 / Pat. Jun. 1909 / Ingle System – R, Br, 31mm.

Unfortunately I have not been able to learn anything about Mr. Toms or his business. There are, again unfortunately, two Thomas Toms who could have issued the token – or then neither of them may have issued it.

There is a Thomas Jasper Toms from the area of Caroleen (southern Rutherford County). T.J. Toms was born 27 December 1867 and died 13 Feb 1926; so the age is right for a man issuing a token after 1909. But T.J. is called only a farmer in his obituary. The 1910 census lists a Thomas Toms in the proper area and gives, his age as 28. So this Thomas was born in 1882. Again we find a man of the correct age to issue a token after 1909. But here again this Thomas is listed as a farmer.

Any information anyone might have regarding Thomas Toms would be gratefully received.

CATALOG OF TEXTILE TOKENS IN PREPARATION

Collectors owning textile mill tokens not listed in the standard catalogs are urged to contact Tony Chibbaro (PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127) or David Schenkman (PO Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617). All contributions will be acknowledged.

CLASSIFIED ADS

TOKEN CATALOG IN PROGRESS. Send detailed listings or call. Will pay \$50 for clear copy of 1911, 12, or 13 Dun or Brad. Have great tokens for trade. Have 10 NC Dun's in computer, call for assistance with attributions. Bob King, 33 Cardinal Dr. Brevard, NC 28712 828-883-8028, TOKENADDICT@CITCOM.NET.

GEORGIA TOKENS WANTED - Will buy or trade for needed items. Also want encased and all other Georgia exonumia. Randy Partin, 1314 Keystone Pointe, Auburndale, FL 33823 Email: RPAR10@GATE.NET.

PEANUT COMPANY TOKENS WANTED. I'm looking for tokens from ANY peanut company. Sell me examples or send me descriptions. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729 or ELADON@BRINET.COM.

SEEKING ALL EXONUMIA FROM SOUTH CAROLINA - tokens, medals, encased coins, Masonic pennies, etc. Will buy sell or trade. Have lots of good traders from many different states. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 or CHIBBARO@MINDSPRING.COM

WANTED Input from readers. Send articles, new finds, classifieds, letters to the editor, book reviews, announcements. This venture can succeed only if there is interest and response from you. Editor